PIONEER UNION PACIFIC PAY-DAY

Union Pacific pay-day on the grade in Wyoming, 1868. Reproduced from stereoscope photograph now in possession of Col. C. A. Black, right-of-way agent of the Union Pacific.

Indian Battle Fought In Ogden Valley, Near Huntsville, In 1863

Little White Girl and Her Brother Watch the Conflict From the Top of a Cottonwood Tree—Pioneer Days Recalled by Mrs. Mary R. Jessop of Ogden—An Indian Raid on the Settlers in Morgan Valley During the Morrisite Rebellion Thrilling Experience With a Black Bear.

The boys and girls who enjoy the delightsome thrills of watching imitation Indian fights at the movies would doubtless find real enjoyment in duplicating the experience of one Ogden lady who in "the sixties" saw a real Indian battle.

The lady, who was one of the two white spectators of savage warfare, is Mrs. Mary R. Jessop of 2816 Adams avenue, and the scene of the battle was the meadow lands on the south side of the Ogden river, about three-quarters of a mile south and a little west of the town of Huntsville.

This affair occurred in the summer of 1863 or 1864, Mrs. Jessop is not clear as to the exact date, and the fight took place between a village of Shoshones and a war party of Cheyennes.

Was a Young Girl.

"I was about 9 years old, said Mrs. Jessop "and the constant companion of my older brother, Stephen, in herding the cows and sheep, in fishing and in trapping for rabbits and birds, I could race and climb trees as well as any boy of my age.

"Our folks moved from Mountain Green in the Weber Valley over the divide to settle in Huntsville. The day of our arrival there I stood up on the fence in front of our house in the southwest part of the town and counted the houses. There were just a dozen of them, nearly all log cabins.

"We did not worry much about the Indians. We saw them quite often. They came to the settlement to beg food and to trade. We soon learned that when the Indian women and children were along there was no danger, but we kept a sharp lookout for the war parties or hunting parties made up of men only. Once the Blackfeet came and stole some cattle but the men followed and got some of them back.

"There was one Shoshone Indian, who came to see us every year. Father called him 'Hautch,' which in the Indian language meant 'friend.' Every year when he came he brought father a present of a buffalo robe.

"When the men left the town and went off to the fields to work, they took their rifles with them. Three shots fired in succession was the signal of danger from the Indians.

"Soon after we arrived in Huntsville there was a scare. One day shots were fired a little northeast of town. We counted three shots and then we heard more shots, mother and my younger sisters stood in the door of the cabin but I ran out to my favorite fence post and stood up on it to look and see what the trouble was.

Big Black Bear.

"The shooting came nearer and then suddenly a big black bear came running across the fields. He came to the fence and followed along the fence and passed between me and the house and right next to the fence. I do not remember whether I screamed or not, but I do know that I tried to stand on tiptoe on that fence post. The temptation to try to fly was very strong.

"A man named Uncle Enoch Crowell finally killed the bear. He was asleep in has cabin when the shooting began and, when he looked out, he saw the bear running past our house. He told father afterward: 'When I see that bear, I says, here's a job for old Sally Ann.' That was the name he gave to his rifle. That evening all Huntsville had bear steak for supper.

"The main man in the settlement at that time was Captain Hunt, after whom the town was named. Settlers came very fast and it grew to be quite a village before we left it.

Was Nine Years Old.

"I was about nine years old when I saw the Indian battle. One day a band of Shoshones came from the south, apparently from Weber Valley, and camped on the south side of the river on a meadow that belonged to father. We saw them when they were still high up on the divide and they traveled fast as if some one was following them.

"When we saw that they were going to camp by the river, my brother and I ran down across the bottoms nearly to the river. There we climbed up in a high cottonwood tree and we could look right across the river into the Indian camp.

"There seemed to be great excitement. They put up some of their tepees. There were about twenty tepees in the camp. There were 50 or 75 men and boys old enough to fight, beside the women and children. They had a great lot of horses and ponies.

Spears And Arrows.

"Some of the men had guns, but most of them had only spears and bows and arrows. There was a great deal of shouting and giving orders apparently.

"Pretty soon we saw another band of Indians riding down the hillside along the same trail the Shoshones had traveled from the south. We learned afterward they were Cheyennes, and they seemed to have already had a fight with the Shoshones earlier in the day. This was about three o'clock in the afternoon.

"The Cheyennes were all men and were painted up and wore war bonnets. They spread out in a line and came dashing up to attack the Shoshones. There were fifty or more of them.

"Some of the Shoshones mounted their horses, but others fought on foot. All the men and all the bigger boys went out to meet the Cheyennes. At first the Cheyennes seemed to have the best of it and drove the Shoshones back into their camp.

Women in the Fight.

"Some of the women went and fought too, but most of the women and children ran screaming and crying and some hid in the bushes and a few waded over to our side of the river and hid in the bushes not far from our tree.

"There were two white families that lived on the south side of the river, the families of William Marlar and Gerrit Wolverton. They lived about half a mile east of the place where the fighting occurred. They had a lot of cows and ran a dairy.

"That day the men were in Ogden and when the first band of Indians came a boy rode over to Huntsville and the men of the town went out across the river and got the white women and children and escorted them over to Huntsville just as the fighting began. The white men made no move to interfere between the two Indian bands.

Fighting Seen From Huntsville.

"The shooting could be heard and the fighting could be seen from Huntsville and there were some badly scared people there. My brother and I were foolish enough to look upon the battle merely as an exciting game and we regarded ourselves as being very lucky in getting reserved seats so close.

"The thing that decided the battle of the scalps had long gray hair was the death of the Cheyenne chief. He was mounted on a fine big horse and had a war bonnet on that was fully five feet long. He rode up and down, yelling and encouraging his men. In fact all the men on both sides seemed to yell all the time.

"Suddenly the Cheyenne chief was shot and tumbled off his horse. Then the fighting centered round the efforts of both sides to get possession of the chief's body. The Shoshones got the chief's war bonnet and then the Cheyennes rallied and drove them back, but the loss of their chief had taken the fight out of them and the Shoshones again captured the body.

"That time they stripped off a beaded belt or coat he wore and I think they took his scalp. Then the Cheyennes charged back again and carried off the body. That ended the fighting. The Cheyennes took their dead and wounded and retreated back up the trail to the south.

Many Are Wounded.

"I do not know that any of the Shoshones were killed but they had quite a number of wounded. They followed the Cheyennes a short distance but came back. The women and children came out of the bushes and they went on fixing up their camp.

"My brother and I slipped down from our tree and ran back home. Talk about the Indians being so observing! I don't think they saw us from start to finish. They were very busy with their own affairs.

"We certainly got scolded when we got home. Nevertheless that night after dark, when the Indians had lighted camp fires and were dancing in celebration of their victory, my brother and I again slipped down to the river bank and stood watching the Indian camp on the other side.

"We could also hear some Indian women crying and mourning, so some of the men may have been killed or may have died of their wounds. The worst wounds seemed to be from the arrows. During the battle, we saw Indians on both sides riding at full speed and hanging on to their saddles with one leg which they shot arrows from under the horse's neck.

"The next day we slipped away away from home and went down to the river again. Everything seemed quiet over there in the Indian camp. They seemed to be resting. We joined hands and by careful wading we crossed over the river which was running pretty swift.

Saw Scalps on a Pole.

"We slipped through the bushes and walked in among the tepees. Still no one saw us. Still no one saw us. Leaning against one of the tepees we saw a willow pole about ten feet long and attached to the top of it were several bloody objects that my brother said were scalps. They must have been taken recently because the flies were buzzing around them. One almost white.

"While we stood looking at the scalps, we heard a noise behind us and there was a big Indian standing there looking mad. He pointed toward Huntsville and said 'Pike-away," which means to get out. We got out in a hurry. We had no trouble in crossing the river that time and we stayed on the Huntsville side.

Had a White Baby.

"It was generally believed by the settlers that this band of Shoshones had just recently attacked some emigrant train because of the scalps they had and the additional fact that one of the squaws, when she came up to the settlement, carried a baby in her arms that was white.

"My mother made several offers to buy the baby which the Indian woman refused. There was also a white girl of five with the band, but the Indians insisted that she was a half-breed. The Indians remained in camp several weeks, but finally went away up the river."

The above was not Mrs. Jessop's first experience with Indians. While the family still lived in Morgan county at Mountain Green and she was only about six years old she recalls vividly a night of terror on account of the Indians. She says:

"It was the day of the Morrisite battle near Uintah. All the men had been called out to assist in putting down the insurrection. We could hear the sound of the cannon in Mountain Green, and, while we were listening, a large band of Indians rode up and camped just east of the town in a grove of cottonwoods.

"My father, William H. Perry, had gone with the others and there were not only no men left in the town, but practically no firearms. There was a scared bunch of women and children in Mountain Green. The grindstones were kept busy sharpening up knives, hatchets, corn knives and axes. Every house got ready to stand a siege.

"A messenger was hurried off to Ogden to report the situation. As night came on the Indians got bolder and more impudent. They very quickly discovered that the men were gone. They rode all over the fields, helping themselves to feed for their horses. They came to each house and demanded food and the women handed out all they had. If they saw anything they wanted about the stables or carrols, they took it along.

Children Not to Scream.

"That night every house was locked up and the doors barricaded. Mother told us children to lie down on the beds with our clothes on and to keep very quiet. Under no circumstances were we to scream, if the house were attacked, as that would only show where we were.

"It was a night of terror and the morning was not much better. The next day Indians began their demands

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PIONEERS CONSTRUCTING UNION PACIFIC

The old way of railroad building. Crew of Mormon laborers working on the Union Pacific grade in Weber canyon, 1868. Reproduced from stereoscope photograph now in possession of Col. C. A. Black, right-of-way agent of the Union Pacific.